

Film lyricist Anand Bakshi is dead at 72

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MUMBAI: For more than four decades, India swayed to his straight-from-the-heart lyrics. Anand Bakshi, who died in Mumbai on Saturday at 72, blended the black-and-white era of the sedate 1960s with the naughty 1990s.

Bakshi's uniqueness as a lyricist lay in his ability to tug at the heart-strings of the cinema buff with metaphors drawn from the flux of life. He could pen both deeply evocative songs, such as 'Duniya mein aisaa kahaan sab kaa naseeb hai' (Devar) and 'Kuchch toh log kahenge' (Amar Prem) as well as plainly playful numbers, such as 'Khat likh de saanvaria ke naam babu' (Aaye Din Bahaar Ke) and 'Jhoota hai tera vaada, vaada tera vaada' (Dushman), with equal felicity.

With 'Saawan ka mahina, pawan kare shor', Mr Bakshi, who had aspired to be a singer in filmdom, was catapulted to national fame. The lilting Lata-Mukesh duet, which celebrates the advent of saawan, the much-toasted month of slight drizzles, swings and festivity, became a part of India's collective consciousness, thanks to the good, old radio.

'Dum maro dum', the sinful Asha Bhosle number, reinforced Mr Bakshi's credentials as a versatile lyricist. Not only did it top the charts, but the 'Hare Rama Hare Krishna' song announced the arrival of Generation Next. Little wonder that Mr Bakshi could collaborate with the post-1995 generation of film-makers effortlessly.

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